

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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SAM-01 IO-10 AID-05 SY-05 /071 W

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R 031150Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3188

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

UNCLAS SAIGON 2315

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUB: OPEN LETTER PROTESTING PEN CLUB PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT TO
TWO US LEGISLATORS

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE IBS:NCA

1. DEPT MAY BE INTERESTED IN OPEN LETTER FROM VIETNAMESE PEN CLUB MEMBER NGHIEM XUAN VIET TAKING ISSUE WITH STATEMENT BY PEN CLUB CHAIRMAN FR THANH LANG TO TWO US LEGISLATORS (CONG MCCLOSKEY AND SEN BARTLETT). LETTER APPEARED IN CHINH LUAN OF MARCH 1. VIETN, BORN IN 1913, IS PROFESSOR OF LAW AT SAIGON UNIVERSITY, NORTHERNER, RECIPIENT OF POINT IV LEADER GRANT TO VISIT US IN 1952, RAILWAY OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS UNDER BAO DAI, DEFEATED CANDIDATE FOR SAIGON CITY COUNCIL (1970) AND LOWER HOUSE (1967), AND INVETERATE WRITER OF LETTERS TO AMERICAN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FIGURES. HE REPRESENTED VIETNAM PEN AT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PEN CLUBS IN NEW YORK IN 1966.

TEXT FOLLOWS:

SAIGON, FEBRUARY 28, 1975

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MR. CHAIRMAN,

CHINH LUAN, IN ITS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1975 ISSUE #3370, ANNOUNCED ON PAGE 10, COLUMN 7 THAT "DURING THIS MEETING WITH TWO US CONGRESSMEN, FATHER THANH LANG DENOUNCED THE US EMBASSY IN VIETNAM AS BEING 'IN CONNIVANCE' WITH THE GVN TO INVENT THE RVN'S CRITICAL SITUATION, AS A PRETEXT TO REPRESS STRUGGLE MOVEMENTS."

AS A MEMBER OF THE VN PEN CLUB, AND AS A VIETNAMESE CITIZEN, I PROTEST AGAINST THE ABOVE ACCUSATION.

WERE YOU TO MAKE SUCH AN ACCUSATION, YOU WOULD HAVE OVER-STEPPED YOUR COMPETENCE, AND THRUST YOURSELF DEEPLY INTO POLITICS IN ALL ILL-CONSIDERED MANNER.

SUCH A STATEMENT IS VERY ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COMMUNISTS AND IT MAY MISLEAD THE NATIONALIST SIDE, SINCE IT INDUCES IT NOT TO REALIZE THE REALLY CRITICAL NATURE OF THE SITUATION. COULD THE GVN INVENT THE COMMUNIST ATTACK AND SEIZURE OF PHUOC LONG? ARE THE PRESENT SUFFERINGS OF THE CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS PURE FABRICATION?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, EVEN THE COMMUNIST POLITBURO COULD NOT MAKE A STATEMENT THAT COULD CAUSE MORE HARM TO THE VIETNAMESE NATION THAN DOES YOURS.

I BELIEVE THIS WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING AND THAT YOU DID NOT MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT.

SINCERELY YOURS,
S/NGHIEM XUAN VIET END TEXT

2. SUGGEST COPY OF ABOVE BE TRANSMITTED TO SENATOR BARTLETT AND REPRESENTATIVE MCCLOSKEY AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF CODEL FLYNT.
LEHMANN

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